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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, UV
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON UPPER VOLTAN COUP
1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED NOVEMBER 25 IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF A COUP D'ETAT IN UPPER VOLTA.
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QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS OF A COUP D'ETAT IN UPPER VOLTA?
ANSWER: OUR EMBASSY IN OUAGADOUGOU (WAH-GUH-DOO-GOO) HAS REPORTED THAT VOLTAN MILITARY FORCES TOOK CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL RADIO AND CITY STREETS IN THE CAPITAL DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 25. COLONEL SAYE ZERBO (SAY ZAIR-BO) AND OTHER ANNOUNCERS HAVE READ STATEMENTS PROCLAIMING THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE DECEMBER 1977 CONSTITUTION, THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE DISMISSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF REFORM AND NATIONAL PROGRESS. UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN BE ESTABLISHED, A MILITARY COMMITTEE OF REFORM AND NATIONAL PROGRESS WILL ASSUME GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THE ANNOUNCEMENTS STATE THAT INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTIES, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, LABOR UNIONS, TRADITIONAL CULTURE AND RELIGION WILL BE GUARANTFED SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY EG DATE 8 MAR 1982
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS
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THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WILL ALSO BE RECOGNIZED.
QUESTION: WHAT OTHER ACTIONS HAVE THE COUP LEADERS TAKEN?
ANSWER: A COUNTRY-WIDE CURFEW IS IN EFFECT FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. TELEPHONE AND TELEX COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOT FUNCTIONING, AND THE AIRPORT IS HEAVILY GUARDED.
QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY BLOODSHED?
ANSWER: NO SHOOTING HAS BEEN REPORTED. MARKETS AND

BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.
QUESTION: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO EX-PRESIDENT LAMIZANA (LAH ME ZAH NAH)?
ANSWER: WE DO NOT KNOW. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
QUESTION: WHO IS COLONEL SAYE ZERBO?
ANSWER: COLONEL SAYE ZERBO IS A MEMBER OF THE VOLTAN ARMY. ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD, HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE MID-SEVENTIES. HE IS A FRENCH-TRAINED PARACHUTIST AND SERVED WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN INDOCHINA, ALGERIA AND FRANCE FROM 1950 TO 1961. HE HAS SERVED MOSTLY IN ARMY STAFF POSITIONS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.
QUESTION: HOW MANY AMERICANS LIVE IN UPPER VOLTA? ARE THEY IN ANY DANGER?
ANSWER: THERE ARE 542 AMERICANS LIVING IN UPPER VOLTA INCLUDING 327 AMERICANS (OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS AND DEPENDENTS) ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY AND 80 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. THEY ARE NOT IN ANY DANGER.
MUSKIE